



Hymn of the Week

October 13, 2019 • 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Our Cities Cry to You, O God

Text: Margaret Clarkson, 1981.

Music: HANDS OF THE POOR, Alfred V. Fedak, 1988

The opening measures of HANDS OF THE POOR quote a poignant musical moment in Gian-Carlo Menotti's Christmas opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, as Amahl's mother and the Magi sing "Have You Seen a Child?" The tune's name comes from a line sung by two of the kings: "...His hands are those of the poor, as poor he was born...".

–Alfred V. Fedak

Topics: Cities, Mission, Society/Social Concerns

Scripture references: Isaiah 9:6; Luke 19:41; John 1:14; Acts 18:10

Publication

Alfred V. Fedak Hymnary (Selah, 1990)

Common Praise (Anglican Church of Canada, 1998)

Songs of Rejoicing: Hymns for Worship, Meditation, & Praise (Selah, 1989)

Selah Songs of Rejoicing (Selah, 2011)



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Our Cities Cry to You

Our cities cry to you, O God,
from out their pain and strife;
you made us for yourself alone,
but we choose alien life.

Our goals are pleasure, gold, and power;
injustice stalks our earth;
in vain we seek for rest, for joy,
for sense of human worth.

Yet still you walk our streets, O Christ!
We know your presence here,
where humble Christians love and serve
in godly grace and fear.
O Word made flesh, be seen in us!
May all we say and do
affirm you God Incarnate still
and turn sad hearts to you!

Your people are your hands and feet
to serve your world today;
our lives, the book our cities read
to help them find your way.
O pour your sovereign Spirit out
on heart and will and brain:
inspire your Church with love and power
to ease our cities' pain!

O healing Savior, Prince of Peace,
salvation's Source and Sum,
for you our broken cities cry—
O come, Lord Jesus, come!
With truth your royal diadem,
with righteousness your rod,
O come, Lord Jesus, bring to earth
the City of our God!

Margaret Clarkson, 1981.
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Our Cities Cry to You

1 Our cit - ies cry to you, O God, from out their pain and strife;
 2 Yet still you walk our streets, O Christ! We know your pre - sence here,
 3 Your peo - ple are your hands and feet to serve your world to - day;
 4 O heal - ing Sav - ior, Prince of Peace, sal - va - tion's Source and Sum,

you made us for your - self a - lone, but we choose a - lien life.
 where hum - ble Chris - tians love and serve in god - ly grace and fear.
 our lives, the book our cit - ies read to help them find your way.
 for you our bro - ken cit - ies cry— O come, Lord Je - sus, come!

Our goals are pleas - ure, gold, and power; in - jus - tice stalks our earth;
 O Word made flesh, be seen in us! May all we say and do
 O pour your sov - ereign Spir - it out on heart and will and brain:
 With truth your roy - al di - a - dem, with right - eous - ness your rod,

in vain we seek for rest, for joy, for sense of hu - man worth.
 af - firm you God In - car - nate still and turn sad hearts to you!
 in - spire your Church with love and power to ease our cit - ies' pain!
 O come, Lord Je - sus, bring to earth the Cit - y of our God!